Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) In the method for forming lignocellulosic thermoplastic composite products containing about 25 to 75 percent by weight of the thermoplastic material such as to increase their resistance to surface visual impairment caused by mold attack, the improvement which comprises incorporating an amount of boron-containing fungicide prior to forming said composite product.
2. (currently amended) In the method for forming lignocellulosic thermoplastic composite products containing about 25 to 75 percent by weight of the thermoplastic material such as to increase their resistance to surface visual impairment caused by mold attack, the improvement which comprises incorporating an amount of boron-containing fungicide in the range of from about 2 to 12 percent by weight of said composite product prior to forming said composite product.
3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 in which said amount of boron-containing fungicide is in the range of from about 3 to about 5 percent by weight of said composite product.
4. (original) The method according to claim 1 in which said lignocellulosic material is selected from the group consisting of wood, ground rice hulls, kenaf, jute, and coconut shells.

5. (original) The method according to claim 1 in which said thermoplastic material is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, high-density polyethylene, polystyrene, and polyvinyl chloride.

6. (currently amended) In the method for forming lignocellulosic thermoplastic composite products containing about 25 to 75 percent by weight of the thermoplastic material such as to increase their resistance to surface visual impairment caused by mold attack, the improvement which comprises incorporating an amount of calcium borate in the range of from about 2 to 12 percent by weight of said composite product prior to forming said composite product.

7. (canceled)

8. (original) The method according to claim 6 in which said calcium borate is a naturally occurring borate.

9. (original) The method according to claim 8 in which said calcium borate is selected from the group consisting of nobleite, gowerite, hydroboracite, ulexite and colemanite.

10. (original) The method according to claim 6 in which said calcium borate is a synthetic borate.

11. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~6~~ 1 in which said ~~calcium borate~~ boron-containing fungicide is selected from a group consisting of ~~calcium metaborate, calcium polytriborate and calcium hexaborate~~ zinc borate, calcium borate, boric acid, or mixtures thereof.

12. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~6~~ 8 in which said calcium borate is colemanite. ~~A calcium polytriborate having a CaO:.sub.2 O molar ration of about 2:3.~~

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) In the method for forming lignocellulosic thermoplastic composite products containing about 25 to 75 percent by weight of the thermoplastic material such as to increase their resistance to surface visual impairment caused by mold attack, the improvement which comprises incorporating an amount of zinc borate in the range of from about 2 to 12 percent by weight of said composite product prior to forming said composite product.

15. (original) The method according to claim 1 in which said lignocellousic material is wood.

16. (currently amended) In the method for forming lignocellulosic thermoplastic composite products containing about 25 to 75 percent by weight of the thermoplastic material which increase their resistance to fungal attack, the improvement which comprises incorporating an amount of boron-containing fungicide prior to forming said composite product.

17. (currently amended) The method according to claim 16 in which said amount of boron-containing fungicide is in the range of from about 0.2 to about 5 percent by weight of said composite product.

18. (currently amended) The method according to claim 16 in which said amount of boron-containing fungicide is in the range of from about 0.3 to about 2 percent by weight of said composite product.

19. (canceled)

20. (original) The method according to claim 16 in which said lignocellulosic material is selected from the group consisting of wood, ground rice hulls, kenaf, jute, and coconut shells.

21. (original) The method according to claim 16 in which said thermoplastic material is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, high density polyethylene, polystyrene, and polyvinyl chloride.

22. (currently amended) The method according to claim 16 in which said boron-containing ~~pesticide~~ fungicide is calcium borate.

23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~21~~ 22 in which said calcium borate is a naturally occurring borate.

25. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~21~~ 24 in which said calcium borate is selected from the group consisting of nobleite, gowerite, hydroboracite, ulexite and colemanite.

26. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~21~~ 22 in which said calcium borate is a synthetic borate.

27. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~25~~ 16 in which said ~~calcium borate~~ boron-containing fungicide is selected from a group consisting of ~~calcium metaborate, calcium polytriborate and calcium hexaborate~~ zinc borate, calcium borate, boric acid, or mixtures thereof.

28. (canceled)

29. (canceled)

30. (original) The method according to claim 16 in which said boron-containing fungicide is boric acid.

31. (original) The method according to claim 16 in which said lignocellousic material is wood.